

**Reformation Evangelical
Lutheran Church
3670 Perkiomen Avenue
Reading, PA 19606**

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Join Us For:

**Sunday Services at 8:00 AM & 10:45 AM
Sunday School at 9:30 AM**

The Reformation Scoop!

Reformation's Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Steven C. Claycomb
 revclay1@verizon.net (new e-mail address)

Parish Administrator: Cindy Shirey
 mail@reformationlutheran.org

Minister of Music: Kathryn Fellman
 reformationmusic@msn.com

Organist: Donald Hinkle

Sexton: Mike Schneeberger

Custodian: Margaret McDevitt

Part-Time Secretary: Pam Schneeberger

Treasurer: Rod Kline

Church Office Hours-9a.m.-12:00p.m.
 Monday—Thursday Closed Fridays
 610-779-0534
 mail@reformationlutheran.org
 www.reformationlutheran.org

West Berks Mission District
 www.westberksmissiondistrict.org

NEPS Website: www.godslove.org

ELCA Website: www.elca.org

Congregation Church Council Members

President: Steve Barnett
Vice President: James Rhoads
Secretary: Jane Humbert

Alan Blackburn	Cheryl Hadley
Robert Galbraith	Shelby Rutherford
Kurt Kohler	Becky Schaeffer
Debra Dombroski	Teri Stoddard
Lisa Sokoloff	Herb Zettlemoyer

REMINDER: Together Time will continue the first Sunday of each month. Join us for good food and fellowship. Meet and greet your Reformation church family.



Ushers

May 2	Kathy Miller & Rod Kline
May 9	Greg & Teri Stoddard
May 16	Dave Shirey & Kathy Miller
May 23	Greg & Teri Stoddard
May 30	Glenn & Melanie Bechtel

Acolytes

May 2	Ben DeAcosta
May 9	Cade DiGuardi
May 16	Tate Dewalt
May 23	Michael Fost
May 30	Bruno Fantilli

Crucifer

May 2	Mike Kern
May 9	Cory DiGuardi
May 16	Karlee Werner
May 23	Mike Kern
May 30	Elina Fantilli

Torch Bearers

May 23	Derek Werner & Michael Fost
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CD Recording Assistants

May 2	Tim Austin
May 9	Bruno Fantilli
May 16	Eric Blackburn
May 23	Scott Galbraith
May 30	Tim Austin

Readers

May 2	Allison Larson
May 9	Kira Schultz
May 16	Andrew Claycomb
May 23	Kathy Austin
May 30	Teri Stoddard

Communion Assistants 8:00 a.m.

May 2	Brenda Haag
May 9	Carol Kohler
May 16	Judy Dornier
May 23	Kathy Galbraith
May 30	Greg Stoddard

Nursery

May 2	DeeDee Werner
May 9	Muffy Reinecker
May 16	Teri Stoddard
May 23	Alison Reinsel
May 30	Katie Barnett

Counters: May counters are: Shirley Harner, Patti Kline & Joanne Scattergood.

8:00 a.m.

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May 16	Dave Shirey & Kathy Miller
May 23	Greg & Teri Stoddard
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May 9	Muffy Reinecker
May 16	Teri Stoddard
May 23	Alison Reinsel
May 30	Katie Barnett

10:45 a.m.

May 2	Richard & Dolores Noble
May 9	S. Harner & J. Scattergood
May 16	Youth Sunday
May 23	Dave & Tammy Moser
May 30	Matt & Alison Reinsel

10:45 a.m.

May 2	Sarah Galbraith
May 9	Annie Ryder
May 16	Christopher Rothbard
May 23	Bruno Fantilli
May 30	Christopher Rothbard

10:45 a.m.

May 2	Scott Galbraith
May 9	Jennie Ryder
May 16	Brian Rothbard
May 23	Tyler Huber
May 30	Nicholas Rothbard

10:45 a.m.

May 23	Christopher Rothbard & Tate Dewalt
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CD Delivery Volunteers

May 2	Julie Seiz
May 9	Jane Farrell
May 16	Julie Seiz
May 23	Pam Schneeberger
May 30	Julie Seiz

10:45 a.m.

May 2	Tyler Lambert
May 9	Anastasia Fantilli
May 16	Youth Sunday
May 23	Don Smith
May 30	Ron Hartzell

10:45 a.m.

May 2	Judy Plica
May 9	Lisa Sokoloff
May 16	Judy Plica
May 23	Bonnie Claycomb
May 30	Renee Donovan

10:45 a.m.

May 2	Mosers
May 9	Richards
May 16	Robyn Shaffer
May 23	Patty Matijasich
May 30	Sara Lambert

Opportunity House
MAY 20th

Food Preparers: Please meet at the church by 2:00 p.m.— JoAnn Smith,
Bonnie Claycomb, Cherly Hadley and Sara Lambert
Substitute: Harriet Clauser

Servers: 6:30 p.m.at church or 6:45 p.m.at the shelter—Jerry Centofanti, Dawn &
Ralph Bibbus, Debbie Genova and Barbara Weir
Substitute: Cathy Sarra

Bakers: Please resume baking the pineapple cake —Elyse Miller, Ginny Schultz,
Peggy Kersher and Muffy Reinecker
Substitute: Jeanne Gochnauer

Volunteers please call JoAnn Smith (610-779-4031) whether you can or cannot serve.

Please Note: We are looking for help in the kitchen with preparing the meal. It only takes a hour and a half to two hours of your time. Men or women are welcome! Please consider helping with this vital ministry. Call JoAnn Smith at 610-779-4031.

MAY SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

<u>Altar Guild</u>	8:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
	Judy Dorner	JoAnn Smith
	Joyce Osborne	Patty Matijasich

<u>Bulletin Helpers the week of</u>	<u>(note the change)</u>
May 2	Jean Lombardi (Thursday, 11:00 a.m. May 6)
May 9	Joanne Reinhart (Thursday, 11:00 a.m. May 13)
May 16	Evelyn Keller (Thursday, 11:00 a.m. May 20)
May 23	Patti Matijasich (Thursday, 11:00 a.m. May 27)
May 30	Patti Matijasich (Thursday, 11:00 a.m. June 3)

<u>Greeters</u>	8:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
May 2	Chris & Michelle Karasek	Anastasia & Elina Fantilli
May 9	Kathy Miller & Judy Dorner	Randy & Elyse Miller
May 16	Haag Family	Rich Hawk & Brian Mishler
May 23	C. Hadley & L. Moyer	J. Farrell & L. Sokoloff
May 30	Candy & Elina Fantilli	Don & JoAnn Smith

Pastor's Page

A small group has been gathering at Reformation on Wednesday nights to look at the book of Acts. This book is so packed full of conversation about what the early church looked like and implications for churches today that we barely cover one chapter in an hour to an hour and a half. Perhaps I was too ambitious thinking our five Wednesday nights would be sufficient to cover the first 12 Chapters of Acts. That being said, we have had wonderful conversations about what the church is to be about and how we are responding to the world around us as disciples.

This early church was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and devoted themselves in worship 'to the common life, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.' (Acts 2:42) At our last two Council meetings we made some important decisions in reference to worship. Over the summer we will be having just one service on Sunday morning at 9 and an 'informal' service at 5:00 p.m. On September 12th we will return to our normal pattern of 8:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services. Having one service on Sunday morning will enable us to connect with those who normally worship at times other than us. There will be a time to enjoy each other's company 30 minutes before and after each service. Of course, we'll have food!

The second decision that was made recently involved a small church which was looking for a place to meet. Pastor Florence came and shared with the Council her vision, and her enthusiasm was contagious. The Tabernacle of Praise Church will be celebrating a new beginning at Reformation on May 16th. I invite you to be a part of the celebration.

A Grand Rapids pastor, trying to be provocative, conducted a worship service with his hair in a ponytail. When the service ended, he remarked: Now, some of you today have been more upset about my ponytail than you are about people not getting Christ's gospel and Christ's love. The truth is, ponytails don't matter - but people do.

John Zingaro writes, "This vignette holds the key to the revival of congregations, (and it) depends less on budgets than on theology - specifically, a theology of welcoming." His book makes the point that churches need to rediscover in the Bible the theology of welcoming newcomers and strangers.

May we at Reformation be a place where as our recent ad in *Once Upon A Mattress* shared, All Are Welcome! May we not be so focused on ponytails that we hide the gospel under a bushel basket, and may we look to open our doors and our hearts so that all may know the love of Christ.

Parish Outreach News

Reformation returning to Exeter May Days

In our ongoing effort to bring our name, ministry, and mission into the surrounding community, the Parish Outreach Committee will again sponsor a tent during Exeter May Days – Friday, May 14th and Saturday, May 15th on the Exeter High School campus. Our tent's theme – "*Pitch for the Pantry*"- will feature a CAN pyramid and will invite those passing by to toss monies into the cans. All monies collected will be given to the Greater Berks Food Bank. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will provide matching funds. Use a pew envelope to contribute (at church) and mark Pitch for the Pantry on the memo line.

Last year many families and individuals volunteered in 1 ½ hour slots to help "man" the stand. Please consider helping in this easy and fun activity. A schedule is hanging on the kiosk in the narthex or contact Tim Dewalt or Judy Zettlemoyer if interested in helping raise dollars for those who are hungry. Volunteers are asked to wear their Reformation shirts.

Be sure to visit our tent at May Days!



Mark your calendar for MAY 8th. This is the date set for our 2nd annual Yard Sale. There are two important things that we will need.

- * ITEMS FOR SALE
- * VOLUNTEERS TO HELP COLLECT AND MARK ITEMS BEFORE THE DAY OF THE SALE.
- * VOLUNTEERS TO HELP THE DAY OF THE SALE STARTING AT 6 a.m.

Please call the office at 610-779-0534 or Rod Kline at 610-621-2270 if you would like to volunteer or if you have items for the sale and want to make arrangements to drop them off at the church or need them picked up. The collection area is in the hall outside the choir room, going to the back parking lot.

A Palm Sunday Thank You

A very special thank you to the following people for taking time out of their busy schedules and making Palm Sunday's presentation of the Passion story a tremendous success: Scott and Kolby Haag, Bob, Scott & Sarah Galbraith, Tony & Tyler Lambert (who took one for the team as he was not 100% healthy, tanks Tyler!), Randy Miller, Russ Clauser, Rich Hawk, John & Neal Donovan, Eric & Alan Blackburn, Judy & Herb Zettlemoyer, Tim Dewalt (who also got the palms), Dale & Madelyn Miller, Ruth Blatt, Lisa Sokoloff, Elisha & Katie Barnett, Don Smith, Pastor Steve, Shirley Harner, Joanne Scattergood, and Kathy Miller and the rest of the hospitality committee. Kudos to our youngest member, Kolby Haag who did an admirable job joining the ensemble at the last minute. Thanks Kolby! Also, a big thank you to Anndria Ciabattoni, Carole Miller, Steve Fellman, and Brenda & Scott Haag for all the additional work and support you do behind the scenes. It cannot be said enough, that none of this would be possible without each and every one of you offering your time, commitment, and enthusiasm towards this project. Without a doubt, it was through your talents and gifts that last weeks Gospel was brought to life!

Again, congratulations on a job well done!

God Bless!

Barry Ciabattoni

Thank you from the Sunday School

A special thank you to Tim Dewalt for organizing a very inspiring Good Friday workshop. The event was wonderful and enjoyed by both the parents and the children. A special thank you also to Barry and Anndria Ciabattoni for organizing the skit; Kathryn Fellman for leading us in singing with help from guitarist Domenic Fantilli and accordion player Kevin Kimmel; Steve Fellman for designing and creating the props for the play and making wooden crosses for each child at the workshop; Ruth Blatt for her wonderful storytelling as Mary, mother of Jesus; Carol and Dale Miller for helping to dye eggs and making cookies; and Shirley Harner and Joanne Scattergood for organizing lunch.

A special thank you to all of our students and parents for supporting the canned food drive. We gathered and delivered close to 600 food items to various local shelters in the area. A special thank you to Tony and Sara Lambert for delivering the canned goods. Also, a special thank you to Tony and Sara for providing doughnuts and chocolate milk to all the Sunday School classes to reward everyone for their contributions to the food bank.

FAMILY PROMISE

Family Promise week at Reformation is approaching fast. We will be in need of volunteers, so please consider doing so the week of June 6th to the 13th. This is a very worthy outreach to our community, to provide food and shelter to people in our own community in their time of need.

If you are spring cleaning, please remember we are in need of good used towels and single bed sheets with pillow cases and also lightweight blankets.

We are looking for a new Family Promise Coordinator starting as soon as possible. I will be resigning after the Family Promise week in June. We will be housing the program again in October. Please pray for guidance in this ministry so it can continue to grow and flourish at Reformation. Thank you for all the support and help I have had with this ministry. Cindy Shirey

Prayer Shawl Ministry Workshop & Beyond

Saturday, May 1st at Friedens Lutheran Church, Shartlesville from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. there will be an opportunity to come and learn, share and experience the JOY of Prayer Shawl Ministry.

During the morning session there will be a time of worship which will include blessing of any shawls you may wish to bring.

Cost for the day is \$10.00. See form below to register. Bring a friend, or better yet, fill a car! If you don't knit or crochet but wish to learn, COME! "Teachers" will be available!

Serving Jesus, Judy Plica

Prayer Shawl Ministry Registration

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Member of Prayer Shawl Group? Yes No Skills: Knit Crochet

Name of Group _____

Skill Level: Beginner Intermediate Advanced

* Please send your registration form & \$10.00 check written to Friedens Church Shartlesville. Mail to: Friedens Church Shartlesville, PO Box 366, Shartlesville, PA 19554



At our May meeting we will finish our Bible Study, "To God's Beloved: Paul's Letter to the Romans". The theme verse is Romans 16:19 on wisdom.

We WILL NOT be meeting on the 1st Monday evening of June, July or August. Instead, our Summer Bible Study will be a one-day retreat entitled "Pray Always". Look for upcoming details on the date and location. We hope you will join us! The Summer Bible Study, which will be from the Lutheran Woman Today magazine, will be posted on the Web site www.lutheranwomantoday.org in May.

Now is a good time to order your subscription to Lutheran Woman Today magazine if you don't already subscribe. It's easy -- call the Augsburg Fortress subscription order center at 1-800-328-4648. A one - year subscription is \$12.

LWR Quilting WILL continue through the summer on the 2nd Tuesday morning of each month. When we began meeting for Bible Study in 2004, our first study was entitled, "I Thank God for You". I thank God for Blanche Link and for all her work on the quilts since we began in 2004. Blanche is retiring as chairperson, but I know not even a knee replacement will keep her from quilting! Kathryn Fellman and Shelby Rutherford will be co-chairing this mission now. Take a look at our bulletin board in the narthex at pictures from our first quilt blessing, Thankoffering Service, and trip to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in January, 2005.

Can you help the LWR Quilting with your donations? Drapery fabrics, sheets, pre-washed cotton, cotton blends, batting, and monetary donations are needed.

WELCA EVENTS:

May 3rd - Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.

May 11th -LWR at 9:30 a.m.

**June 12th – 21st Annual Convention WELCA Northeastern Pa.
Synod at Christ United Lutheran Church in Ashland, Pa.
register by May 10th**

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

May is a very busy month in Sunday School at Reformation. Sunday May 16th will be Youth Sunday. The Sunday School children will be participating in the 10:45 a.m. church service. Two skits will be performed by both younger and older children of the Sunday School. Please come and support the children on this special day.

On Sunday May 23rd, we will be celebrating confirmation at the 10:45 a.m. service. Six young people will affirm their baptism on this Sunday. Please join us for a reception for the confirmands from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the social hall. You can congratulate the newest members and join us for some refreshments and fellowship.

Don Smith continues his study of Ephesians in May. Please join Don in the parlor for adult Sunday School from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Looking ahead, our last Sunday School class until the fall will be Sunday June 6th.

Thank you to all who teach and support the Sunday School program at Reformation.

Blessings to All!

Sara Lambert and Brenda Haag

The Congregation is invited to a reception for the confirmation class from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 23rd in the social Hall. Please join us for refreshments and fellowship as you congratulate the newest members of our congregation.

Attention College Students and High School Seniors,

Scholarship forms are available in the office or on line at www.reformationlutheran.org. Deadline to apply is Friday, May 21st. Forms may be turned into the office. Any questions, ask Brenda Haag at 610-689-9256.

FLOWERS



Please consider sponsoring flowers. Carol Shoppes Florist, 320 W. Neversink Rd, Reading, PA. is doing a wonderful job decorating the altar. The price is \$25.00 per vase. Please use an envelope and mark it flowers for the Sunday you have chosen to decorate our church with fresh flowers in honor of or in memory of someone. We would like to avoid sending out bills for the flowers. Please pay for your flowers in the month you are providing them. Thank you. The new chart is on the bulletin board outside the library. **May 30th, June 20th and June 27th are open dates; only one vase per service is needed.** Thank you for your help in this matter.

Health Ministry—Care Notes

Look and see what's NEW in our Narthex! We now have a display of Care Notes from Abbey Press. Perhaps you've seen them at other churches like I have and wondered why we didn't have them too. Cindy Shirey was thinking the same thing, and we finally acted on our "passion" which is helping people in their times of trouble and loss.

The booklets are free, and we encourage you to take what will be helpful to you and your family. If you see a topic that may help a friend, please feel free to take one along to share.

Care notes cover a wide range of health and loss issues, so if you don't see one that applies to your situation, please speak to myself or Cindy. We did order some extra stock and may have what you are looking for. If not, we have the complete list of titles and would be happy to order whatever is needed.

Serving Jesus

Judy Plica

GriefShare

The current cycle of GriefShare will come to an end on May 6th. I've seen growth and healing as participants continue to do the hard work of grief.

Summer and vacation time is coming, but for those who grieve there is no vacation. As a result, there will once again be a summer session of GriefShare beginning in June. Date to be announced soon.

I invite you to come and find God's healing touch for your grieving heart. If your loss is recent or happened years ago, you are most welcome to come and experience God's healing from mourning to joy.

Serving Jesus

Judy Plica

Church Volunteers Booklet - Correction

The counters for August are Russ Clauser, Gerry Wegman and JoAnn Smith. The counters for September are: Harriet Clauser, Joanne Scattergood and Patti Kline. Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

National Arthritis Awareness Month

*“for in Him we live and **move** and have our being.” Acts 17:28b NKJV*

For close to forty years I have had arthritis in various forms. My rheumatologists have made it very clear that I must keep moving. At one time, it was thought if you had rheumatoid arthritis you should rest the joints, but we now know this is not true.

What exactly is arthritis? The word means joint inflammation. The term arthritis is used to describe more than 100 diseases and conditions that affect joints, the tissues which surround the joint and other connective tissue. Typically arthritis conditions are characterized by pain and stiffness in and around one or more joints. The symptoms can develop gradually or suddenly. Certain rheumatic conditions can also involve the immune system and various internal organs of the body.

Most of the arthritis diseases are clinically diagnosed using the patient's history, physical examination, and selected radiographic and laboratory studies.

Non-inflammatory types are usually treated with pain medications, physical activity, weight loss (if overweight), and self-management education. Inflammatory types are treated with the above as well as anti-inflammatory medications (corticosteroids and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory6 drugs (NSAIDS), disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs), and biologic agents.

If you have been diagnosed with an arthritic disease, I recommend you see a rheumatologist. Take your medications as prescribed and learn what works for you as far as keeping pain and inflammation to a minimum. Know your limitations and what you can and can't do. Exercise is important, but it may have to be modified for you. This will vary from individual to individual. Focus on healthy eating. If physical therapy has been ordered - continue with those exercises when you are done with the therapy. This will help prevent loss of motion and help keep the joints lubricated.

Use canes and walkers or other aids if the doctor has ordered them. Pace and schedule activities. I cannot clean my entire house in one day as I used to. I have to listen to my body to determine how much I can do in any given day. If I am going to do something that I haven't been doing for a while (such as gardening), I may have to take an anti-inflammatory in addition to my regular medication. If I start with problems, I will use moist heat, ice or my TENS unit (electrical stimulation). Muscle and pain relieving rubs also help as well as knowing when to rest.

The two most important things I do, though to control my arthritic pain are: adhere to my weight-lifting restrictions (this is hard with grandchildren) and to keep moving. When I sit for long periods, I really feel it. Find a safe, doctor-approved exercise program for yourself. Ideally, it should include range-of-motion exercises, strengthening exercises and aerobic or endurance exercises. The National Institute on Aging has a free booklet on how to start and stick with a safe exercise program (1 800 222-2225 or www.nia.nih.gov). The Arthritis Foundation has a Walk with Ease program which can be accessed at www.letsmove.together.org and aquatic programs nationwide. Other resources can be found at www.arthritis.org; www.rheumatology.org; www.naims.nih.gov; www.cdc.gov/arthritis; www.healthinaging.org

Just as we should be moving closer to God in our faith journey, those of us with arthritis need to keep moving so that we can continue to do the things that we enjoy. Judy Laubenstein RN, BSN, CDE

BEAR CREEK CAMP 2010 – “Keeping the Earth”

BEAR CREEK is YOUR camp! Bear Creek is a ministry of the Northeastern and Southeastern Pennsylvania Synods of the ELCA, devoted to providing opportunities for kids and adults to deepen their relationships with God, nature, and each other. There is so much going on up there!

2010 Spring Events:

Summer Camp runs from June 20 through August 14. Information and registration forms can be found on the display in the narthex. Registration is also available on line at the website. Check with me before you register, as **financial assistance** is available, including reduced costs for first-time campers and siblings.

If you have questions or are unsure of anything, ask me. I can connect you with someone who has been to the camp or provide any other information you may need.

Watch for further camp information at the display in the narthex, in the bulletins and newsletter. Please contact Alison Reinsel (610-582-0608) with any questions. Check out the camp website and apply online at www.bearcreekcamp.org.

Many volunteer and service opportunities are available at Bear Creek Camp. It's a great way to serve and enjoy our awesome environment at the same time! The camp is also recruiting for camp counselors, support staff, nurses and chaplains. These are paid positions and are available as both short and long-term commitments.

If you are able, please consider contributing to **Bear Creek's Campership Fund**. All donations go directly to reducing the cost of camp for campers in need.

Service Change For the Summer

Please note for the future— starting June 27th we will have one service on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. An informal service will be held on Sunday at 5:00 p.m.

Newsletter Change

The newsletters for the months of July and August will be combined into one July/August newsletter.

Fellow Disciples in Faith – Overcomers Tabernacle of Praise

Beginning soon, another group of Christians will be using our building twice a week. A small congregation led by Pastor Israel Oluwasegun Adetula and Pastor Florence Abeke-Nike Adetula will be using the choir room as worship space on Sunday afternoons and for a prayer meeting on Friday evening. We have been invited to attend their service, and they may also attend ours from time to time. Their worship is rooted in non-denominational West African Christian services, and so they promise there will be singing, dancing and drums.

Pentecost Sunday— We will be decorating our sanctuary with red geraniums on Sunday, May 23rd. Information on the cost of the geraniums will be announced.

Reformation Notes of thanks

What a surprise to have the “Easter Bunny” bring a lovely basket from the Reformation Church Family! Everything we need—sweets (for our body), eggs (for new life), a beautiful plant (to remind us of the joy of living) and best of all the cross (for our soul).

It was a very thoughtful gift and am sure that a lot of work went into it. God’s blessing to all of you. Ed & Margaret Kleinsmith

To my friends at Reformation,

I want to thank the people at Reformation who made the Easter box, full of goodies and a little pansy, and left them on my porch. I appreciate your thinking of me. Sincerely, Marion Phillips

P.S. I’ve eaten all the cookies and candy

Together @ Nine

I would like to thank everyone who assisted with Together @ Nine this year; bakers, hostesses, and everyone who cleaned up; especially those who took care of cleaning up the coffee each week. You all are a blessing, making the organization of our fellowship a breeze. We had some wonderful desserts, and plenty. I would also like to thank my husband Charles Miller for taking over the Coffee Making every week.

Kathy Miller

Spiritual Renewal & Retreat

May 13 – May 16

Are you looking for spiritual refreshment and an opportunity to grow in your faith? Are you looking for time apart with God? Come join several members of our Reformation community as we intentionally gather in order to help our faith grow.

Several of our members have attended this type of retreat. If you have any questions or would like to register for this retreat, feel free to talk to them: Judy Plica, Steve and Elisha Barnett, Pastor Steve and Bonnie Claycomb, Rod and Patti Kline, Tina Stanton and Ruth Blatt.

It is truly something you have to experience, and we believe you will find it to be a blessing to you and to Christ’s Church! Oh, by the way there’s no cost for the event – transportation, meals and lodging are all included. The retreat runs from Thursday night through Sunday afternoon.

Both men and women are invited. Accommodations are separate – this is not a “couples” weekend, however couples are welcome to attend as well as individuals.

Talks are given by lay persons and clergy throughout the weekend, and time is set apart for daily worship. Many have found the retreat has given them a deeper understanding of their faith, even more than one might get through regular worship and Bible study.

This renewal movement called Via de Cristo or ‘the way of Christ’ exists in many denominations besides the Lutheran Church. In the Roman Catholic and Episcopal Churches it is still known as *Cursillo*. In the Methodist Church, it is called “Walk to Emmaus.” The movement also exists in several other denominations.

Spring Clean Up Day

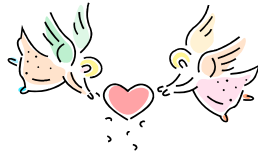
May 22nd is our Spring clean up day, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Adopt-A-Flower Bed

Remember to sign up for Adopt-A-Flower Bed. This bed will be yours to care for during the spring and summer months.

Prayer List for May

Please keep the following in your prayers for the coming month. If you would like to place a name on the prayer list, please call the information to Pam Schneeberger or e-mail her at Lpm33@verizon.com. To place someone's name on the list, please be sure you have their permission to do so. We will keep their name on the list for one month. If the name needs to remain on the list for the next month, just call Pam with an update.



Reformation Family: Patti Kline, Jayne Phillips, Reynold Miller, Mildred Arner, Marion Henne, Dorothy Oswald, Grace Sanna, Marguerite Scholl, Pearl Gerth, Skyler Reed, Dorothy Arndt, Barney Bombay, Genevive Cloak, Hazel Cosentino, Sue Wood, Jay Yerger, Mae Hall, Tina Stanton, Judy, Helen Luckenbach, Blanche Link, Evelyn Keller, Thomas Baer, Catharine Reed and the family of Daniel Knechtel.

Friends of Reformation: Jordan Shickel, Ann Schaeffer, Dolores Hilbert, Paul O'Leary, Daniel Heffner, Michael, Matthew Tobias, Rita McHale, Bob Korn, Krista Stone, Tori Jones and family, Terry Keiser, Elvia Cataldo, Kate Schimmel, Woodrow Warren, Karen Heck, Melissa Bennett, Joan Hinkle, Maureen Manzella, Andrea Bolger, David, Jean Brodt, Stephanie Ernst, Barbara Moyer, Charles Cooke, Sharon Bingamon, Dale Reinecker, Gayle Hafer, Shirley Scheinhartz, Bryant Domina, Toung Phung, Shirley Scheinhartz, Tracy Reifsnnyder, Terri Getz, Denise, Nancy McDermott, Angelina Ferraro, Mary Morici, Yelena Vdov, Cody Stephens, Bob & Helen Lewis, Eric Hirsh, Karen Slyman, Jerry Moreua, John Himmelreich Jr., Margie McDevitt and the families of Priscilla Kinney, Mary DiGuardi and Annabelle Kunkel

The Prayer List Coordinator is Pam Schneeberger. Please call the church office at 610-779-0534 or Pam at 610-370-0790 for prayer requests.



8th Annual Souper Bowl

Monday, May 3, 2010

5:30 - 7:00 pm

New Location:

Body Zone

3103 Paper Mill Road

Wyomissing, PA

\$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Each attendee gets to choose a hand-made pottery bowl and feast upon soup, bread and deserts provided by over 30 area restaurants and caterers.

Tickets available March 1st at:

Boscov's

Bell Tower Café

Body Zone

Fromuth Tennis

Panera Bread

On-line ticket sales at www.opphouse.org and www.bodyzonesports.com

For more information, go to www.opphouse.org or contact Becky Burton at 610-374-4696 ext. 231 or bburton@opphouse.org

All proceeds from Souper Bowl support the programs and services of Opportunity House.

Church Website Pictures

We are looking for pictures of people and current or past activities for the Church website. If you have digital pictures, you can easily send them to us at: mail@reformationlutheran.org. We will format, label and post them to the website as appropriate. If you have traditional film-developed pictures, we can also scan and post them to the website, but this takes a little longer to process. All we need are the pictures [digital or traditional], identifying information about the picture[s], your name and a telephone number to return them to you as needed. Be a part of the "God is on the Loose" activities at Reformation Lutheran Church.

Spring Blood Drive
Saturday, May 1 8:30 a.m.--12:30 p.m.

You've donated clothes and food; now it's time for one more important donation. Please come out and support Miller-Keystone, OUR community blood center.

It only takes about 1 hour of your time, and if you bring a friend or spouse with you, who also donates, you'll get a prize!

TOGETHER TIME

We will be sharing fellowship time once again during the summer worship services. Sunday morning worship will be at 9:00 a.m., and we would like to enjoy fellowship 30 minutes before service and 30 minutes after service. Committee liasons signed up at congregation council to supply the refreshments for the individual Sundays.

June 27th WELCA

July 4th Regular first of the month Together @ Morning Worship

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY/ THRIVENT BUILDS WORKDAY
6 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

On Saturday, June 19th Reformation will be donning hard hats and work gloves to pitch in to help build the latest Habitat for Humanity/ Thrivent Builds homes in Reading. Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.. You must be at least 16 years of age. No experience necessary. Wear sturdy, closed shoes and bring a bag lunch. We will carpool from church at 8:30 AM. Talk to Jeanne Gochnauer if you have any questions or you wish to sign up to work.

On Sunday, June 6th, Jay Worrall, Executive Director of Reading/ Berks Habitat for Humanity, will speak at both the 8 and 10:45 a.m. church services as part of Thrivent Builds Sunday at Reformation. He will also lead a discussion for the Adult SS class at 9:30. A special offering will be taken for Thrivent Builds during both services. Please use the special envelopes that were included in this newsletter, or in the pews that Sunday. Thank you for your ongoing support of this very important mission here in Berks County. Jeanne Gochnauer, Congregational Advocate Jeanne Gochnauer

From My Heart to Yours

I have a hard question for you: do you ever take anything in your life for granted? I'm sure, if you're honest, you would have to say yes along with me.

As I've continued to reflect on my Lenten journey during this Easter season, it is becoming more and more real to me just how much God loves us. I think if we're grown up in the church having been taught from a very young age "Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so" that it is quite easy for us to take this precious GIFT for granted.

To overcome this tendency, I need to be very intentional, so during Lent I do a lot of extra reading and study about Jesus' sacrifice for ones sins on the cross. Each year God seems to teach me a little bit more. This year I heard a similar message twice—a sign for me that God wants me to pay attention! The message was about the words "I thirst" that Jesus spoke from the cross. Two different pastors suggest that even though Jesus would have obviously been extremely thirsty physically, that it was really a different kind of thirst He was communicating to us. Scripture often refers to thirst as deep longing for a closer, more intimate relationship. CAN YOU EVEN IMAGINE the thought of WANTING to be in an intimate relationship with those who have just caused you unbelievable pain and torture? And yet, this is what both messages implied!

Please join me in some intentional reflection on the COST of the ULTIMATE GIFT and never, ever take it for granted again. If we truly do this I can't imagine that we won't be hungry and thirsty for a deeper walk with one Beloved Lord. Join me, won't you??

John 3:16 & 17

Serving Jesus,

Judy Plica



Reformation Ringers

We will be practicing on Wednesdays, April 7, at 6:15 P.M. Two or three people are needed to ring bass bells. You need to have upper body strength and be able to read music a little. If interested, call Julie Seiz at 610-370-1235.

My Grandmother's Hands

Chubby little baby hands meant to love and play
Growing hands that ironed and washed dishes all the day,
Hands that led canal boat mules
Hands grown rough from work and tools,
Playing music for everyone
As they caressed the melodeon
Later, to the church they went
To Heaven, organ music sent:
Tenderly cared for a baby son
Played with him, enjoyed his fun
Helped him on the farm they shared
For animals and plants they cared;
Drove a milk route every day
Driving "Punch", a gorgeous bay
Tended sick, neighbors, friends
Family members without end
Tucked loved ones in final rest- - -
Hands that always gave their best
Home they kept, grandchildren raised
Hands deserving of great praise,
Hands that quilted quilts galore
Crocheted rugs for on the floor
Hands that folded oft in prayer
Hands grown rough from toil and care
Gnarled hands, racked with pain
Beautiful hands, holding a cane;
Beautiful for the service they gave
From childhood through unto the grave
Gentle hands, that combed my hair
Now in Heaven do their share.
Respect the hands of aged ones
Who've toiled through many moons and suns,
Their example take to heart
As in this life, you do your part.

By Catharine Reed



Movie Night

Friday, May 21, 2010 is movie night at 6:30 p.m.



Feel free to invite family, friends or neighbors who might enjoy this event. Come out and enjoy a movie, share in fellowship and good conversation, and maybe even bring a box of popcorn.

Our feature this month is *FIELD of DREAMS* (1989). An Iowa farmer hears a voice in his corn field telling him, "If you build it, he will come." This movie is a tribute to all who dream. Starring in the movie is Kevin Costner, Amy Madigan, James Earl Jones, Burt Lancaster and Ray Liotta.

There's HOPE in Reading

What a wonderful visit with two members of Hope! Patti Rose and Dee Kramlich joined our WELCA Bible Study on April 5th . They updated the group on projects that Hope is sponsoring and asked for assistance.

Hope is also sponsoring a team for EXETER'S RELAY FOR LIFE. They have invited us to join their team "Hope Walking" or sponsor our own team. The event is on the weekend of June 5th from 10:00 a.m. Saturday to 10:00 a.m. Sunday at Central Catholic Field. Participants will take turns walking the track to raise money to fight Cancer. Individuals can either walk or donate to the Hope team. There will be a Luminary Ceremony to remember loved ones lost and SURVIVER CEREMONY to celebrate those who have won the battle against Cancer. If you are interested, see Kathy Miller or you can register or donate at *relayforlife.org*. Look for relay events and enter Exeter PA. Click on the May 5th event for more information.

On May 3rd, Hope will have a fund raiser at Chick-Fil-A in Exeter Commons. A portion of the sales between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. from patrons with a flyer will go to "Hope Walking" to support the Relay for Life. I will have flyers available in the narthex before May 3rd.

On May 17th Friendly's on Park Road will also give a portion of sales from all patrons between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. to "Hope Walking."

Please consider stopping by both of these establishments and enjoy a meal or dessert to support Relay for Life.

Patti and Dee were intrigued with our quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We may get some help from Hope for this mission of ours. They also invited us to come to their WELCA meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30. They serve food.

A group will be joining Hope in worship periodically. We will advertise these visits a week ahead and invite anyone to join us.

Kathy Miller

Help for Haiti

After our mission trip to Haiti, the members of Christ Lutheran, Dryville are working to fill a sea container with needed supplies. According to Food for the Poor, two of the items most needed are peanut butter (in plastic jars) and school supplies (spiral bound notebooks, packs of pencils with erasers and packs of crayons). If your congregation would be willing to help with this collection project, please contact Pastor Cheryl Meinschein at 610-682-7664. Our plan is to collect supplies during April and ship them in May. Financial contributions to help with shipping costs would also be appreciated. Thanks for your help!

Note: Pastor Meinschein was the guest speaker at our WBMD Lenten Prayer Breakfast.

Office Help Needed

Please consider using your gifts to volunteer time in our church office. We need help in all areas. Some examples are answering phones, filing, typing newsletter articles, folding bulletins, putting together the newsletter for mailing, calling weekly service participants and doing general office duties. We also need help with our website. Call the church office with any time that you can help.

June Newsletter Deadline –May 16th, 2010-For handwritten and E-Mail Articles

Please use the green forms for newsletter and bulletin articles. They are available in the narthex and library or e-mail us:

mail@reformationlutheran.org. Articles received after the due date will not be able to be included in that newsletter.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Deadline for bulletin announcements is Tuesdays at 12:00 noon.

Deadline for committee reports for council is May 12th.



Cub Scout Pack 315

Car Wash

Saturday June 19th with a rain date
of June 26th

9am-3pm

Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church

3670 Perkiomen Avenue